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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan. 1951

SUBJECT Military Situation Summary for 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF  
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The following is the year-end summary of the military situation in Bulgaria by a well-qualified military observer recently in Bulgaria.
2. Forces under arms: perceptibly increased during 1950. In spring 1950 forces were estimated at about one hundred thousand men. At present the figure is set at about one hundred twenty thousand to one hundred thirty thousand for all three armed forces. The Army units as a result are somewhat overstrength, but the total number remains unchanged.
3. Armament: Almost all of the armament was renewed by the Soviet Union. Tanks, heavy artillery, and portable arms are almost all new. Old materials among the light artillery, heavy machine guns, and mortars are still noted. Bulgaria has on hand about seven hundred pieces of artillery and about four hundred to four hundred fifty tanks.
4. Parachutists: Bulgaria has had small parachute units since the end of World War II. It is believed today that the consistency of these troops has remained unchanged.
5. Cominform Partisans: Although it has been reported many times that there exists a Partisan division, its existence is not yet ascertained. It is believed that at present the strength of organized Partisans in special formation destined for special tasks is at about four thousand to five thousand men.
6. Military Preparations:
  - a. Call-ups for training; new classes were called up recently. In particular, Sofia drivers were called up for instructions in driving tractors for Katyusha, which presumably arrived recently from the USSR.
  - b. Communications for reservists from the mobilization center: reserve personnel have been issued new individual cards giving indication of the center for assembly in case of a recall mobilization.
  - c. Radar network: radar stations have been installed by the Russians in Bulgaria.

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Auth.	HR 70-2
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- d. **Communications:** The building of a pontoon bridge over the Danube between Vidin and Calafat. On the Plovdiv-Haskovo-Harmanli-Svilengrad Highway and in the Plovdiv valley, work is in course on the increasing and strengthening of bridges. A good part of the road between Plovdiv and Haskovo is being resurfaced. This road constitutes the principal road access to Bulgaria. Other work is in course on roads in southern Bulgaria leading to the Turkish frontier and particularly the widening of cart trails and the replacing of wooden bridges with reinforced concrete. Russian technicians recently inspected Bulgarian railroad cars adapted for hospital trains.
7. **Evaluation of military situation:** The progress made in 1950 for strengthening the armed forces and in war preparation is considerable. Although excluding the necessity of emergency measures in view of imminent conflict, the strengthening still has the characteristics of a methodic and progressive military reinforcement for a probable, not too distant conflict. The Bulgarian Army, because of armament, faithfulness of leaders to Moscow, complete political purging in cadre especially among high-ranking officers, trustworthiness from the political point of view of young officers and soldiers who are well disciplined, and because of the presence of Russian officers, can be considered a unit of USSR military forces.
8. To completely evaluate the situation, the Militia and the labor troops, (Trudoviks) whose military importance from the numerical as well as the preparation point of view is considerable, cannot be overlooked.

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